

NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Proposal Abstract: *PARTNERSHIPS IN CHARACTER EDUCATION*

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is applying for funding under the Partnerships in Character Education grant program to create a substantial technical support capability that will promote the development of effective programs in public and nonpublic schools throughout the state, reaching at least half of the state's 1.6 million students in four years. An existing Character Education Network of more than 600 LEAs, and 1400 public and nonpublic educators, parents and community members will receive support and leadership to assist them in expanding the breadth and depth of their services, utilizing designated state aid as funding and resources from the grant to provide technical assistance, professional development, program support and evaluation. The NJDOE will measure the impact of best practices in curriculum infusion and science-based programs on students in approximately ten collaborating partner demonstration site LEAs and refine an existing system to report on implementation outcomes for all public school districts. In order to accomplish these goals, the NJDOE will:

- Establish the New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCE), located in a state college or university with evaluation and research history with character education;
- Create an Advisory Board and an Evaluation Expert Panel to help guide the project; and
- Form a collaborating service provider system featuring national and state leadership organizations and science-based program providers to assist LEA program development.

Over the four-year grant period the New Jersey Department of Education will marshal state and federal resources and utilize tested program resources and evaluation experts to demonstrate the effectiveness of character education in promoting student development and its contribution to school success.